Punishment of officers using sub-standard material in production of arms and ammunition

*118. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a procedure to fix responsibility and to award punishment to officers found guilty of using sub-standard material in production of arms and ammunition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) Procedure already exists to fix responsibility and to award punishment to officers found guilty of using sub-standard material in production.

2. All material used in production of Arms and Ammunition is duly inspected before such use.

3. Procedure for quality assurance is designed on a three-tier system of inspection. First stage is the inspection of material at the supplier's premises by an inspection team headed by a Non-gazetted Officer of Directorate General of Quality Assurance. At the second stage, confirmatory inspection is carried out, also at supplier's premises, by a Gazetted Officer or a senior Non-gazetted Officer'. Where the first-tier inspection is on sample basis, the confirming officer draws 50 per cent of the samples taken for the first-tier inspection and an equal portion from the uninspected bulk of the lot. In the third stage, where it is required, considering the criticality of the item, samples are taken out on random basis for laboratory tests. Results of the inspection at different stages are submitted to the Head of the Quality Assurance Establishment for decision on acceptance of lots.

4. Under a system of defect investigation in force, where defect reports are received from users by the Directorate General of Quality Assurance, the causes of failure are identified and corrective measures are taken, as also, action to fix responsibility for human failure or negligence etc., if any.

Set-back in production of LSI and VLSI Chips due to fire

*119. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss and the setback in production programme of LSI and VLSI chips for the electronic industry due to the recent fire at the assembly section of the public sector Semi-conductor Complex Ltd., at Mohali near Chandigarh on the 7th February, 1989; and

(b) the steps taken to make-up the loss find with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The fire at Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL), SAS Nagar, Punjab, has destroyed the LSI/VLSI chips manufacturing and R and D facilities. The estimated loss is Rs. 60 crores.

(b) An Interim Action Plan to ensure continuity of supply of LSI/VLSI chips to various users of SCL has been made operative. This consists of import of finished semiconductor devices to meet the immediate user requirements followed by arrangements to secure diffused wafers and their packaging and testing in India. Order have been placed for the clock devices, pulse dialler, codec and microprocessors and deliveries are expected to commence in May, 1989. In

is proposed to rebuild the facilities at SCL using this opportunity to the extent feasible to upgrade the technology level and a plan for this is under finalisation. SCL is expected to resume manufacture of LSI/VLSI chips through in-house diffusion in about 2 years after the project for rebuilding SCL is initiated.

Withdrawal of Oxyphenbutazone and Phenylbutazone

*120. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had informed the Kelkar Committee that Oxyphenbutazone and Phenylbutazone were very harmful drugs and were likely to be banned in the near future;

(b) if so, when and on what basis such comments were made;

(c) whether his Ministry is the final authority to allow marketing and withdrawal of drugs in the country;

(d) if so, by when these drugs are likely to be withdrawn; and

(e) the names of the countries where such drugs have been withdraw and the reasons for their withdrawal in those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, State drug control administration can stop marketing and also order withdrawal in accordance with the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.

d) and (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The experts consulted have not recommended withdrawal of Oxyphenbutazone/Phenylbutazone as these are considered as drug of choice for certain musculo skeletal disorders such as ankylosing spondylitis and gouty arthrits. The use of these drugs have been restricted for these two indications.

Phenylbutazone is reported to be withdrawan in Norway, Jordan and United Arab Emirates.

Oxyphenbutazone has been withdrawn in Norway, Israel, U.K., United Arab Emirates, Finland, Jordan and Zimbabwe.

These drugs were reported to be withdrawn in some countries on the ground that their systematic use may cause bone marrow depression. However, both these drugs continue to be marketed for restricted indications in many other countries.

Irration fixed dose combination of Tranquilizers with Vitamins

649. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2128 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Tranquilizers and Vitamines are irrational;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to reconsider the marketing of these combinations based on rationality; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The question of rationality of fixed dose